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No. 23 Pirates Rally For 8-4 Win Over No. 14 CSU At PBC Championships





Posted: May 09, 2011

COLUMBUS, Ga. - The No. 23-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University baseball squad overcame a 4-1 deficit by scoring seven unanswered runs to claim an 8-4 win over No. 14-ranked Columbus State, staving off elimination on Tuesday afternoon at the 2011 Peach Belt Conference Championships at Golden Park in Columbus.

The Pirates (34-16) advance to meet Lander in another elimination game on Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 p.m. Columbus State (33-17) sees its regular season come to a close with the loss.

The Cougars built a 4-1 lead over the first six innings with single runs in the first, fourth, fifth and sixth frames. A sacrifice fly by Logan Dollar plated the first run, then a double-error by the Pirates on a ground ball to first plated the Cougars' Eric Skinner with the second run. Justin Pharr's RBI single in the fifth and an RBI groundout in the sixth accounted for the Cougars' four runs, while the Pirates' early run came in the second inning courtesy of a **Josh Purvis** two-out two-RBI single.

Armstrong's comeback started in the top of the seventh as an RBI groundout by **Lawrence Jackson** and an RBI single by **Alex Frederick** made the score 4-3. The eighth saw the Pirates send 10 batters to the plate and pile up five runs, chasing Columbus State starter Tyler Carpenter and also closer Brian Satterfield in the inning.

With two outs and one on, back-to-back walks to **Josh Heath** and **Mike Barnhill** loaded the bases for **Chris Zittrouer**. Zittrouer beat out an infield single to short, scoring **John Roberts** and tying the game at four. Purvis then followed with a two-RBI single up the middle on an 0-2 pitch, and after a walk to Jackson, Frederick followed with a two-RBI single to make the score 8-4.

Armstrong starter **Scott Strickland** (8-3) then put the finishing touches on the complete-game victory by holding the Cougars to just one hit over the final two innings to earn the victory. Strickland gave up eight hits and four runs - three earned - in nine innings, walking five and pushing his PBC-leading strikeout total to 104 with four punchouts on the afternoon.

Satterfield (3-1) took the loss in relief for the Cougars, giving up three hits and five runs in 2/3 of an inning, walking two.

Purvis was 3-for-4 on the day with three RBIs to lead the Pirates at the plate, while Frederick with 2-for-5 with three RBIs. Bruce Alter was the only batter on the Cougars to register multiple hits, going 2-for-4.

The win was the first in PBC Tournament play for the Pirates since the 5-2 win over USC Aiken in the 2007 PBC Championship game.



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